

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 102, 103 and 113-123 are currently pending in this application. Claims 102 and 103 are amended; and Claims 97-101 and 104-112 are canceled by the present amendment. Claims 102 and 103 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of independent Claim 97. No new matter is presented.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which after final rejection permits entering amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment cancels rejected Claims 97-101 and 104-112, and amends allowable Claims 102 and 103 to recite the subject matter of the base claim from which they depend. No new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 101, 107, 109-112 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claim 106 was objected to because of a minor typographical error; Claims 97-99, 100, 104-106, 108-111 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,221, hereinafter “Saito”) in view of Moshier (U.S. Patent No. 4,228,498); Claim 112 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of Moshier, and further in view of Cannella (U.S. Patent No. 5,668,810); Claims 102 and 103 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claims 113-123 were indicated as allowable over the applied references.

Applicant's appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claims 102 and 103 are amended to be rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base Claim 97, from which they depend.

Further, Claims 97-101 and 104-112 are canceled by the present amendment, rendering the above noted rejections/objections moot. Accordingly, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matter need be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lyle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959